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Inventory
for
Manuscript Collection
MS-424

Captain Lucius J. [Jeremiah] Stevens Papers
Inclusive dates 1878-1915
Bulk dates: 1894-1914

by
Anastasia S. Weigle
Edited by Nathan R. Lipfert

February 2009

Shelf feet: 1.5 shelf feet
Number of boxes: 3
Accession # 2006.087.01

A PART OF THE CAPTAIN W. J. LEWIS PARKER BEQUEST

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ABSTRACT

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Stevens, Lucius J. [Jeremiah], *Captain*, 1848-1915

Papers, ca., 1878-1915 (Bulk dates: 1897-1914)

3 boxes (1.5 Shelf feet)

Sea captain from Clinton, CT.

Vessel papers of Captain Lucius J. Stevens (1848-1915), a vessel captain, owner and agent well known along the entire Atlantic Coast during the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Originally from Clinton, Connecticut, Capt. Stevens was well-known in Bath when he stayed in Capt. John Patten's home during the building of his four-mast schooner **Rachel W. Stevens** at the New England Shipbuilding Company in 1898. The only personal papers in the collection are a personal letter dated 1910, a book and a few ephemeral papers.

Bequeathed by the estate of Capt. William J. Lewis Parker in 2006.

MS-424. Accession #2006.087.01.

Finding aid available in repository; folder level control

Added entries—persons:

Stevens, Lucius J. [Jeremiah], 1850-1915

Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels)

Eva L. Ferris (Three-mast schooner)

Rachel W. Stevens (Four-mast schooner)

New England Shipbuilding Company

Added entries—key terms:

Schooners

Ship Captain

Shipbuilding

Shipping

Ships—Owners

Clinton (CT)

Bath (ME)

ACQUISITION

The paper of Capt. Lucius J. Stevens papers was bequeathed to Maine Maritime Museum from the estate of Capt. William J. L. Parker in November and December 2006.

PROVENANCE

Capt Lewis Parker picked up many of his maritime papers through dealers, auctions, estate sales or relatives of past maritime figures. I can not find any documentation on how he acquired these particular papers. They were part of his maritime collection that he bequeathed to this Museum.

RESTRICTIONS

There are no restrictions on the use of these materials for study and research.

PHYSICAL CONDITION

The collection came in one large storage filing box. Most of the account books were in good condition with intact signature. Only one account book has a detached spine. Red leather on the account books show typical wear but I see no "red rot." The few papers in this collection have the typical wear and surface dirt as is expected with minor tears. Papers with creases were flattened with a tacking iron and all staples and paper clips were removed. Most papers were placed in polyester sleeves.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Captain Lucius J. [Jeremiah] Stevens (1850-1915). Born on May 17, 1850 in Clinton, Connecticut**,** Capt. Lucius Jeremiah Stevens was the son of George H. and Sarah Pierson. He lived in Westbrook, Conn. as a young boy and resided on a farm for a time. His father, being a sailor, instilled in him a love for the sea. As a young man, he accepted every opportunity that afforded him any education and taught school during one winter at Horse Hill, Westbrook, Conn. and another winter conducting a nautical school in New Haven, Conn.

In 1876, after a series of coasting voyages, he took command of the schooner **Mary M. Brainard** coasting between the Portland (CT) quarries, New York and other ports. Shortly thereafter he became master of the schooner **Freestone**, owned by the same company as the **Mary M. Brainard.** In 1884, he entered the employment of the Dover Transportation Company, taking command of the **John Bracewell**, which was employed in carrying coal from Dover, New Hampshire to various ports. After remaining as her master for about seven years, Capt. Stevens contracted with the New England Shipbuilding Company of Bath, Maine for the construction of a three-mast schooner—the **John J. Hanson** - while he was commanding the four-mast schooner, **John Holland**,

built by the same company. During a dense fog, the **John Holland** was hit off Cape Henry by an English tramp steamer, the **Michigan**, and sank almost immediately.

He next took command of the schooner **J. J. Moore**, Captain Arnold of Haddam, her master, having died. He ran the **J. J. Moore** about a year and then purchased an interest in the schooner **Eva M. Ferris**, a three-master of about 1200 tons. After running her between 1896 and 1902, he had built the four-mast schooner, **Rachel W. Stevens**, named for his youngest daughter. She was built in Bath by the New England Shipbuilding Company. Capt. Stevens occupied the home of Capt. John Patten on the corner of North and Front streets in Bath during the time the **Rachel W. Stevens** was being completed at the New England Shipbuilding Company.

He married Lucy Maria Kelsey of Clinton, Conn. on February 12, 1874 and had six children. He was a member of the local Methodist Episcopal Church and was president of its board of trustees. He was member of the Boston and New York Marine Societies.

The **Rachel W. Stevens** was his last command, and in her he voyaged to the West Indies, Cardenas, Port au Prince ad Cuba. He resigned the active command in 1914 owing to poor health after a period of forty-three years as master. Capt. Stevens died in Clinton, Connecticut on March 20, 1915 at the age of 65 and buried in Indian River Cemetery. At the time of his death, he was the last licensed commander hailing from the town of Clinton, Connecticut and was one of the last type of sea captains for which New England was at one time famous.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTES

The majority of this collection is account books and summaries (trip-statements) for the four-mast schooner, **Rachel W. Stevens** and for the three-mast **Eva L. Ferris**. A cash book for the **Eva L. Ferris** includes crew wages and store accounts. There are other vessel names mentioned in Capt Stevens' **Eva L. Ferris** Dividend book and some interesting notes he has written behind one of the letters of receipt (Box 1/Folder 3) that makes reference to various protest or petitions. These are difficult to decipher. Other vessel papers are for **Freestone** and **Margaret Thomas**

There were a few items of note in the collection: one letter written to "mama" in 1910 when he was commanding the **Rachel W. Stevens** (I believe "mama" refers to his wife), a technical book, *The International Code of Signals*, and a few ephemeral papers.

NOTE: The following was inscribed in the book, *"Schooner Rachel W. Stevens Signal Letters, K. N. Q. P, No. 111.199, 1898. 1032 Net — 1211 gross, Aug. 18th 1898, Bath, Maine."*

SERIES ORGANIZATION

MS 424. Capt. Lucius J. Stevens Papers (1878-1915)

Series I. Vessel Papers (n.d., 1878-1914)

Eva L. Ferris *(Three-mast schooner)*

Freestone *(Two-mast schooner)*

Margaret Thomas *(Four-mast schooner)*
Rachel W. Stevens *(Four-mast schooner)*

Series II. Personal Papers (n.d., 1910)
Correspondence
Book
Miscellaneous papers

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I. Vessel Papers (n.d., 1878-1914). The vessel papers for the **Eva L. Ferris, Freestone** and **Rachel W. Stevens** which Capt. Stevens commanded. Most of the papers are account summaries (dividend statements) and Account Books—this includes expense accounts, dividend books and a cash. Cash book includes crew wages, portage accounts and store accounts. The only vessel paper for **Freestone** is a cargo invoice. Other vessel papers include a few receipts and notes. There is one dividend statement for the **Margaret Thomas** that I believe Capt. Stevens had an interest in.

Series II. Personal Papers, (n.d., 1910). Personal letter from Lucius to his wife dated 1910 and a few ephemeral items. I also placed the book *International Code of Signals* in this subseries.

Cross-Reference for additional Vessel Names

Vessel Names	Box/Folder	Notes
Edith G. Folwell	1/7	Account book, page 260-261
Sarah C. Hill	1/7	Account book, page 261(article)
Joseph J. Pharo	1/7	Account book, page 261(article)
Josephus (barge)	1/7	Account book, page 261(article)
Battle Abbey (Bark)	1/7	Account book, page 261(article)
Eva L. Ferris	2/1	Account book, pages 1 - 24

MS-424 CAPTAIN LUCIUS J. STEVENS PAPERS
Container List

SERIES I. Vessel Papers

Eva L. Ferris (3M)

BOX#	FOLDER#	
		Accounts, Summaries
1	1	Cash Book, 1894-1895
		- *includes crew wage, owners dividends and store accounts)*
	2	Account book, Trip Statements, 1894-97
	3	Accounts, General—Receipts, 1896-97
	4	Freight & Cargo, 1897

Freestone (2M)

	5	Receipts, Cargo, Schedule of Stone, 1878-79

Margaret Thomas (4M)

	6	Accounts, Summaries—Trip statement, 1913

Rachel W. Stevens (4M)

	7	Building Construction, Memorandum of Agreement, 1897
		Ownership
	8	Ledger, Dividend Book, 1897-98
	9	Ownership papers, Dividends, 1903, 191410
	10	Ledger, Dividend Book, 1910
		Accounts, Summaries
2	1	Book, 1898-1910, Trip statements #1-119, Dividend accounts
		- *(includes trip statements for **Eva L. Ferris** 1897-98*
	2	Account Book, Trip Statements, 1909-1914
	3	Account Book, Expenses (Port charges, crew wages, etc.) 1911-14
	4	Account Book [blank]
	5	Summaries, Trip statements 1909-1914
		Accounts, General
	6	Invoices, 1911-15
	7	Miscellaneous expenses—notes , n.d.
	8	Accounts, Checkbook register, 1897, L. J. Stevens, Agent, New England Co.
		Miscellaneous Article
3	1	"Capt. Lucius J. Stevens' New Schooner" *American Shipbuilding*, February 17, 1898

SERIES II. Personal Papers

	2	Correspondence [Maria, 1910]
	3	Book, *International Code of Signals*, 1898
	4	Miscellaneous papers